U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY www.cma.army.mil

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CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

- **Anniston Chemical Activity,** Anniston, Ala., recently started its VX rocket disposal operations. More than 3,600 VX-filled M55 rockets have been destroyed since July 23, 2006.
- **Deseret Chemical Depot,** Tooele, Utah, celebrated 10 years of successful operations at the facility in August and that same month started its last, and largest, disposal campaign: mustard agent operations.
- **Newport Chemical Depot,** Newport, Ind., has safely eliminated 24.5 percent of its nerve agent VX stockpile since beginning disposal operations in May 2005.
- **Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project** recently completed its fourth Explosive Destruction System mission to Delaware. Since entering service in 1999, the system has successfully destroyed more than 500 items.
- **Pine Bluff Chemical Activity,** Pine Bluff, Ark., has safely destroyed more than 56 percent of its sarin rocket stockpile since start of operations in March 2005.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot,** Hermiston, Ore., safely completed its sarin rocket disposal operations. The facility will begin sarin projectile disposal operations in October.
- **The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board** commended the Chemical Materials Agency for the "management of its occupational and environment program," finding that the Chemical Materials Agency's "engineering controls, extensive training, exhaustive environmental monitoring, and strong focus on safety have resulted in the near elimination of chemical exposure to the work force and the surrounding community."

Flags of some of the Chemical Weapons Convention signatory nations.

THE CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency has reached a major milestone - the destruction of 50 percent of the number of munitions in the declared U.S. stockpile. The Chemical Materials Agency team has destroyed more than 1.7 million chemical munitions, an achievement unparalleled by any other country. This demonstrates the United States' commitment to its international obligations as a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

"We are extremely pleased with our progress in eliminating these obsolete weapons. And, we remain dedicated to continue the hard work to finish the job with safety always as our number one priority," said CMA Director Michael Parker. "Teamwork is the foundation of the Chemical Materials Agency. This teamwork culminates with the partnering of the Chemical Materials Agency and Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives. The unified effort of both agencies will be required to achieve disposal of 100 percent of the United States' chemical agent and weapons," he added.

The U.S. Army's first disposal facility, Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), began in 1990 to dispose of the chemical weapons stockpile located on Johnston Island in the Pacific Ocean, 800 miles southwest of Hawaii. The pilot facility

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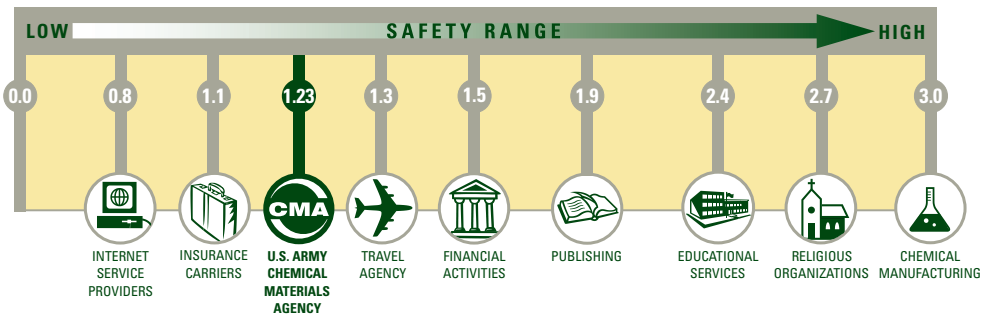
SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY - CMA Ranks Low in Workplace Injuries

CMA chemical stockpile disposal facilities achieved an average Annual Recordable Injury Rate of 1.23, which, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is low and ranks somewhere between those of insurance carriers and travel agencies.



THE CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE

(continued from front)

completed its mission in 2000. Today, JACADS is a wildlife refuge, providing habitat for endangered and threatened waterfowl and marine species.

The Chemical Materials Agency's disposal facility at the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland completed disposal of the entire mustard agent stockpile in 2006, becoming the first facility within the continental United States to completely destroy its stockpile. Other states with chemical weapons stockpiles and accompanying disposal facilities include Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Oregon and Utah. In addition, weapons are also stockpiled in Kentucky and Colorado, where disposal facilities are in the design phase, as Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives disposal projects.

The U.S. Army's commitment to safely and expeditiously destroying its chemical weapons continues and is evident daily by the talented people working on the program. From "Ironman" Dan Aldrich, a technician who has safely logged more than 1,000 entries into the Tooele, Utah, disposal plant's toxic areas, to the Chemical Materials Agency's outreach representatives who visit local schools to educate children and provide program information to the media and the general public about the chemical weapons disposal program, the message is always the same: the Chemical Materials Agency is committed to the mission of safely eliminating our nation's chemical stockpile.

ABERDEEN COMPLETES CLEANOUT OF MUSTARD CONTAINERS

Workers at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Maryland, completed safely cleaning and decontaminating all 1,817 containers that once stored mustard agent at the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground on Feb. 7, 2006.

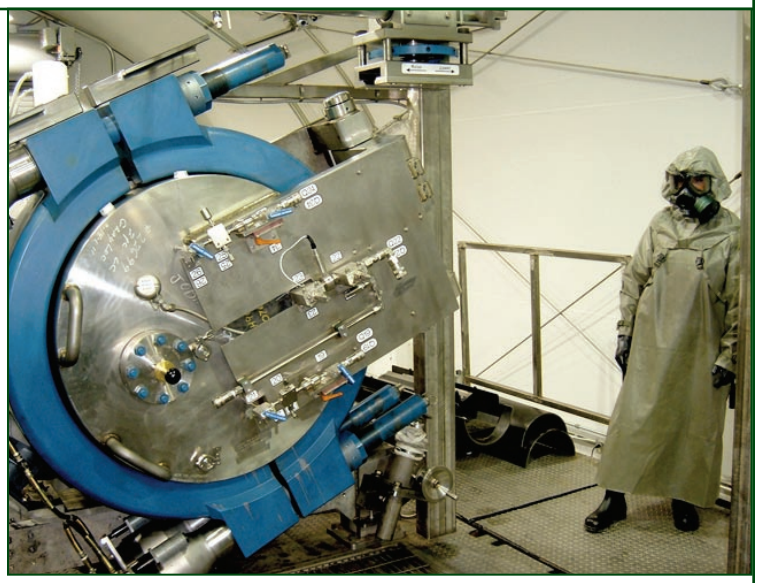
EXPLOSIVE DESTRUCTION SYSTEM BEGINS MISSION AT PINE BLUFF ARSENAL

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency began safely and efficiently treating approximately 1,200 recovered chemical warfare items using its Explosive Destruction System, a transportable technology, at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark. The mission is expected to last up to three years.

The Explosive Destruction System, a proven technology, has successfully treated more than 500 items since entering service in 1999.

The munitions inventory includes 4.2-inch mortars, German Traktor rockets and some miscellaneous chemical warfare items. Nearly all of the items were recovered during arsenal environmental remediation projects in the 1980s.

To treat recovered chemical warfare items, the Explosive Destruction System uses cutting charges within its stainless steel containment vessel to access the chemical fill. The chemical fill is then neutralized within the vessel by adding a neutralization chemical, or reagent. The Explosive Destruction System provides complete blast, vapor and fragment containment, protecting the safety of workers and the environment.



The Explosive Destruction System neutralizes a chemical-filled munition within the vessel. The vessel is heated and rotated, mixing reacting chemical to ensure complete neutralization.

A companion technology, the Rapid Response System, has been treating the arsenal's inventory of chemical agent identification sets used in the 1900s to safely train Soldiers in the identification, handling and decontamination of chemical agents. That mission started Aug. 1, 2005, and is expected to conclude in 2007.

CMA News is produced by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Public Affairs Office.
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